



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 6, 2003

H.R. 3159 **Government Network Security Act of 2003**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Government Reform
on September 25, 2002*

H.R. 3159 would require federal agencies develop and implement a plan within six months to ensure computer systems are secure from the use of Internet file-sharing (peer-to-peer) programs. Peer-to-peer file-sharing programs are Internet applications that allow users to download and directly share electronic files from other users on the same network. The legislation would not prohibit the use of file-sharing programs, but would require agencies to create a plan that uses technology and employee training to address potential privacy and security concerns for government computer networks. The legislation also would require the General Accounting Office (GAO) to review individual agency plans within 18 months after enactment.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3159 would not have a significant impact on the federal budget. Under the E-Government Act of 2002, federal agencies are already charged with protecting information systems from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction. H.R. 3159 would highlight a specific security concern for computer systems that federal agencies are currently implementing plans to protect. Based on information from the Office of Management and Budget and GAO, CBO expects that addressing this specific security concern would not significantly increase the cost of ongoing efforts to maintain secure federal computer systems.

In addition, the legislation would require the GAO to review and report on the individual agencies plans. CBO expects that completing the GAO report would cost less than \$500,000, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.